

Udon Cottage Clevedon  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 1884.

Dearest Mrs Chapman,

You must accept our warmest congratulations & offer them to dear Lizzie with our best wishes for her happiness in the bright prospect opening before her. You know how closely we are bound in love & sympathy to you & yours, & how we must ever rejoice in your joy & sorrow in your sorrow, so you will need no lengthened or formal assurance of our participation in your emotions on the present all-absorbing occasion. We heard many weeks ago of Lizzie's engagement; the tidings were conveyed to us by Mr James, who had obtained them from Mr Gaskell, who was just returned to Manchester from Paris. It was one of those rumors, however, which we knew would be confirmed by yourself in proper season.



if there was a solid foundation for it  
to which if unfounded it would only  
have teased you to be told about. So  
I made no allusion to the report in  
my late letters to you. It would  
however be far too late to attempt  
to limit the circles thro' which the  
intelligence shall spread, it has  
been abroad so long, that it must  
run its course. We are rejoiced to  
hear the improved accounts from Pau. I

I trust your party will ere long be reunited,  
when there will be no need of avoiding  
allusion to the delicate topic of his  
engagement. Miss Weston wrote me  
the kindest & most affectionate of  
letters soon after she reached Pau, & yet  
unto this day it remains unanswered.  
The night & day my responsive thoughts  
are with her. <sup>A letter to her</sup> It is one of 26 needing  
to be written; but I have for the last



three months been obliged to act in the  
most reckless way towards my  
correspondents, & only attempt to  
catch at a few of the most pressing calls.  
My Father's enforced inactivity compelled  
me to spend a great deal of time in  
helping him to do nothing; & it never  
answers to seem fully occupied. If  
he had any other companion so that  
I could work a few hours consecutively  
our suspended communion would be  
renewed with many an absent friend.  
They are all (that is those worth training)  
most indulgent to me in my silence,  
& none more considerately so than  
you & your dearest Mrs Chapman.

The parcel was sent, & as I under-  
stand left at Maurice's by Mr Spark.  
It contained a few copies of my Father's  
"Brief Notice" inscribed to different  
friends, & two or three other pamphlets.  
I forget whether there was any letter



but think not. I have not seen the  
spark since receiving your letter  
to make minute enquiries as to  
what he did with the parcel, but  
he has never failed heretofore.

It is a great happiness to us <sup>that</sup> for  
dear Mr Pillsbury <sup>should</sup> be able to  
go to Paris sadly as we shall miss  
his presence here. To see him roam  
over hill & dale, exploring ruins, &  
enjoying in his liberty & daily in-  
creasing strength, is most exhilar-  
ating; I trust he will be able to stay  
in this country long enough to recover  
mind & body, & save the exposure  
& fatigue of next winter's <sup>American</sup> campaigns.  
Do push in a word in favor of his  
continuance here when you write  
to Boston; he naturally feels some  
hesitation in expressing a wish on  
the subject, but he evidently does hope  
there will be no impatience for his return  
till he has seen the people & places

Ms. A. 9. 2. 55



in our land which have special  
 associations & attractions. I can  
 think of nothing that would be  
 so helpful to us antislaverywise,  
 as his mixing with the friends of  
 the Cause in private, even if his  
 health should forbid his speaking  
 in public. Mr Thapier wants to  
 see & know him, Mr Reid wants  
 him Mr Grant, & others in London,  
 & the Leeds people are longing for  
 him. So they are in Edinburgh &  
 Dublin & Glasgow, & he is wanted  
 again at Bridgewater; Miss Martineau  
 wishes him to spend some time  
 at Ambleside. She knows he will  
 always be most acceptable in Bristol,  
 & --- there is no end to the places  
 where he could do good service at.



no expense or fatigue to himself.  
I hope you will get him to your  
evening gatherings that he may  
see you & the social circles that  
assemble around you; <sup>trust</sup> that he  
will not avail himself of Mr Howe's  
unsocial tastes to escape coming  
into the world, now he has "got  
the chance" as he calls it. It will  
be a pity if he can indulge his  
inherent reserve & shrink from  
observation in Paris where he <sup>ought</sup> ~~will~~  
~~would~~ to see all that is to be seen of  
the new phases of character & life  
that it has to present. He has seen  
but little of our national character  
as yet but the way is paved for his  
future study. He has established  
a warm friendship with Mr Steinthal  
which I was sure would be brought



about as soon as ever they met.  
Mr S. wants to become personally  
acquainted with all the Abolitionists  
~~to~~<sup>wished</sup> to come here to see Mr Hovey  
but there was not time to sum-  
mon him. If you can think of  
it will you remind Mr Hovey to  
inform me of his address in London  
he will be there at a season when  
many of our mutual friends  
will be going to Town, & if they  
could find him out I know they  
would rejoice to greet him. When  
shall we see you I wonder! What  
a bright day it will be for us when  
you smile upon us once more!  
I want to know whether you have  
seen Mr Adland & Mr Taylor yet,  
& how you like them? They have  
heard I presume of the death of Mr



Armstrong's eldest son; & also that  
of Rev. J. G. Roberts of Manchester.  
He was a warm hearted Unitarian  
minister who at the <sup>Unit<sup>d</sup> A. S.</sup> meeting in London  
declared he would welcome Mr. The  
Parker into his pulpit more heartily  
than any of his clerical brethren  
Mr. Bishop of Liverpool is going  
to be married. The rest of the news  
Mr. Pillsbury must tell you <sup>all</sup> <sup>about</sup>  
Miss Amelia Thompson, Edith T. &c.  
If this is incoherent you will excuse  
it for I have been writing & at the same  
time listening to a talk between  
Mr. Hovey & my Father which needs  
protecting that it might not grow  
too animated. Now the household  
indeed & I am going for the last time  
look in upon Mr. Pillsbury & tell him to  
sleep if he has not gone of himself!! I  
shall be like a fish out of water without him  
With much love to you all from my Father &  
I am ever very affect<sup>d</sup> yours  
Mary Estlin